

APPENDIX C to East Reserve Project ROD

Mittal Wetland Mitigation Bank Information

AITKIN COUNTY WETLAND RESTORATION SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

BLIND LAKE, SECTION 23 INFORMATION FOR MANAGEMENT

This Aitkin County Wetland Restoration Site is located in Section 23, Township 48N, Range 27W in Aitkin County, Minnesota. This is a 640-acre mitigation site that was developed by U.S. Steel and Ispat Inland Mining as replacement for wetland impacts in St. Louis County. The site has been through five-years of monitoring during its conversion from farmland to wetland. The following outlines the habitat management activities that are proposed for this site.

This section was first converted to agriculture prior to 1982 and it eventually became fairly good habitat for open land species such as the sharp-tailed grouse. In the spring of 1991, a survey found a sharp-tailed grouse lek in the area with 18 males using the ground, however, we do not know what was there in prior years. Use declined for the next few years but the reasons are unclear. During 1995 to 1997, no birds were observed, probably due to most of the areas remaining black. As the area was converted back to a more natural state, the birds returned with 5 males counted in 1998 and 14 in 1999.

The entire square mile area consists of marsh and wet/sedge meadow with occasional patches of shrub swamp and some areas of upland grass. In the complex we can expect to find use by various waterfowl. Duck use would be primarily by puddle ducks such as mallard and teal. Canada geese and migrating swans are also common and the geese will undoubtedly nest in the area. Other water birds using the area could include bitterns, herons, rails, sandhill cranes, sandpipers, yellow legs, and perhaps gulls and terns.

Several species of hawk and owls use these open areas such as northern harriers, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, great horned owl, snowy owl (in winter), northern hawk owl, and the long-eared and short-eared owls. The great gray owl could inhabit the surrounding area and use this area for hunting.

Other birds include the already mentioned sharp-tailed grouse, various swallows, wrens, and sparrows. The wetland habitat is undoubtedly used by various salamanders, frogs, toads, and turtles.

Mammals that are expected to use this area include various shrews, bats, voles, lemmings, and mice, gray wolf, red fox, coyote, raccoon, mink, weasels, and deer. With the ditches surrounding the area, beaver are also present.

The Section of Wildlife is committed to improving and managing openland complexes for the above-mentioned species. Since our resources for such management are limited, we are using sharp-tailed grouse as one of our indicator species for prioritizing areas for management. Over the past several years, management activities have occurred on adjacent state lands since the lek is present in section 23. This management has included winter shearing of brush and some herbicide treatment of selected areas. Some prescribed burns have been planned but have not been completed due to various reasons.

This openland complex then includes section 23 and surrounding state lands along with open corridors to openland habitat to the east and south.

Section 23 is an integral part of this complex and it is our desire to manage it in its present state of limited brush. To do this, we are proposing the use of prescribed burns to help maintain the area as it is now.

Prescribed fire would be used periodically on portions of the area to set back brush encroachment, remove fuel accumulations, and maintain early successional stages for openland species. Depending on desired outcomes, prescribed fire would be used primarily in early spring but at times may have to be conducted at other times of the year depending on weather conditions.

Prescribed fire is very weather dependent and, along with manpower and funding needs, it is not always possible to conduct burns in a timely manner. This may lead to situations where brush may get out of hand. If this occurs, then winter shearing of brush on frozen ground would be considered to return the site to early successional stages.

Although more shrub swamp is valuable for some species, the more open habitat that we are trying to maintain is in short supply in the area and is a primary limiting factor for such species as sharp-tailed grouse.

Prepared By:
David B. Dickey
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Area Wildlife Manager
September 30, 2002

AITKIN COUNTY WETLAND RESTORATION SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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The wetland restoration site had drain tile removed and was planted in native herbaceous vegetation in 1996. The site has converted from 29.9 acres of pre-existing wetland to 618.6 acres of Type 2 (wet meadow) and Type 3 (shallow marsh) wetlands. If the DNR decides not to manage the site for open land species such as the sharp-tailed grouse, then no additional vegetation management is proposed to control the growth of shrubs and trees. The site will be allowed to convert naturally to Type 6 (shrub swamp) and Type 7 (wooded swamp) wetlands.

The site will remain in private ownership with a permanent conservation deed restriction. U.S. Steel and Ispat Inland Mining will be the responsible parties for long-term management and maintenance activities including nuisance vegetation control and management of the site hydrology.

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Aitkin County Wetland Restoration Site 2001 Monitoring Results

Wetland Type	Description	Acres
Type 1	Seasonally Flooded Basin	35.4
Type 2	Wet Meadow	122.2
Type 3	Shallow Marsh	456.4
Type 5	Open Water Wetland	4.6
Type 6	Shrub Swamp	0
Total Wetland		618.6

The U.S. Steel site will remain in private ownership with a permanent conservation deed restriction. Ispat Inland Mining donated their section of the wetland restoration site to the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Agency (IRRRA). The IRRRA is a Minnesota state agency. U.S. Steel and IRRRA will be the responsible parties for long-term management and maintenance activities including nuisance vegetation control and management of the site hydrology at the wetland restoration site.

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5.0 USS/Inland Aitkin County Wetland Restoration/Mitigation Plan

USS and Inland Steel Mining (Inland) have jointly selected a 640-acre Aitkin County site which contains prior converted wetlands as the location to restore wetlands for the purpose of mitigating impacts associated with mining activities. The following describes the proposed mitigation site in accordance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act and COE 404 permit special conditions for the EE Stockpile permit. Inland intends to separately purchase and restore 160 acres of this site. The remaining 480 acres will be purchased by U.S. Steel. A separate Plan will be submitted by Inland for their portion of the project.

Wetland Replacement Site Summary

1. Implementation and Construction Timetable (U.S. Steel Wetland Replacement) (Based on EE 404 permit requirements)

Selected Replacement Site	January, 1996
Submit Draft Wetland Replacement Plan	February, 1996
Submit Final Wetland Replacement Plan	March, 1996
Initiate Wetland Construction	April, 1996
Complete Wetland Construction	May, 1996
LGU Restoration Certification	November, 1996
Submit Monitoring Plan	March, 1996
Complete Wetland Monitoring	5 years after construction completed

2. Replacement Wetland Size

The replacement wetland site being purchased by USS is 480 acres in size. The site has been given prior converted status by the Aitkin County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is currently in agricultural production. The site is under private ownership and a purchase option has been instituted between USS and the landowner. The option states that it is the current owners responsibility to restore the site to wetlands and enroll the restored wetland acres into the State Wetland Bank. Once the site is restored and credits certified by the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), which is the LGU for the wetland replacement site, USS will purchase 480 acres of the site and associated wetland credits. Once the sale of the property is finalized, USS will withdraw credits from the State Wetland Bank as follows:

- 2 acres for impacts to wetlands in the northwest quarter of Section 1, T58N, R18W due to expansion of the East Pit of the Wheeling Mine
- 4.5 acres for impacts to wetland in the southwest quarter of Section 8, T58N, R18W due to construction of the BB Stockpile area.
- 0.7 acres for impacts to wetlands due to construction of the South Power Line Road
- 36.4 acres for impacts to wetland due to construction of the EE Stockpile
- an undetermined amount of acreage for the limestone tail track site

Therefore the total size of initial wetland replacement, which will be withdrawn from the wetland bank, for the purpose of COE and WCA permitting is 43.6 acres (plus limestone tail track). In addition, another 274 acres of potential wetland impacts will be withdrawn prior to or concurrent with implementation of the West Pit expansion.

3. The Location, County, Watershed and Coordinates of the USS/Inland Aitkin County Wetland Restoration Site

The area is located in Aitkin County, Minnesota, Section 23, T48N - R27W. The UTM watershed coordinates for the site are X 444, Y 5164. The site is located in the Mississippi River Watershed approximately 50 miles south of the impacted sites. Figure 1 provides a general location map of the site.

4. An Recent Aerial Photo or Accurate Map of the Replacement Site

Figure 2 provides an NRCS aerial photo of the site as it exists today. The NRCS has designated the farmland prior converted (see Appendix B).

5. A Soils Map of the Site

Figure 3 provides information from the Aitkin County soil survey, which has not yet been published. All of the soil series present on the site are considered hydric in nature. The soils include:

<u>Soil Number</u>	<u>Soil Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
540	Seeleyville Muck	Hydric Soil
541	Rifle Peat	Hydric Soil
1983	Cathro Muck	Hydric Soil
532	Sago Muck	Hydric Soil
759	Hillview Fine	Hydric Soil
625	Sandwick Loamy Sand	Hydric Soil

6. Surface Water Drainage Into the Wetland

Figure 4 provides the approximate pre-conversion topography for the site. Historical drainage on the site was generally from NW to SE. A jurisdictional county ditch parallels the western border of the property. This ditch drains the Blind Lake watershed (approximately 2,000 acres). The historical direct watershed was approximately 680 acres. The extremely flat topography and poor drainage led to establishment of wetland over much of the site.

Figure 5 indicates the approximate post-conversion topography and drainage patterns. A west to east ditch provides the primary drainage route for stormwater and shallow ground water. This ditch turns south and empties into an existing county ditch system which conveys water into the Little Willow River. In addition, the ditch along the south boundary of the property was

extended to the west and connected to the drainage ditch serving the Blind Lake Watershed. The entire site has been tiled with lateral drain tile running in a north south direction and emptying into the central west-east ditch. Under current conditions the watershed to the site is still approximately 680 acres.

Under the proposed restoration plan (Figure 6), the topographic conditions will be altered slightly. The area of upland located in the SW quarter of Section 23 will be utilized for borrow to construct the ditch block. The ditch block will raise the shallow groundwater table to approximate pre-conversion conditions and restore a natural sheet flow to the system. Under proposed conditions, the watershed area is expected to remain approximately 680 acres.

7. Surface Water Inlet/Outlets and Floodplains

There are no surface water inlets to the proposed wetland restoration site other than a small area (approximately 40 acres) of overland flow from the north onto the site. The ditch block will be constructed in a manner such that diffuse overland flow and seepage become the primary outlets for surface water.

8. Ownership and Rights Demonstrated by Applicant

Section 6, provides the necessary affidavits and contract documents linking USS wetland permits to the site. In general, the purchase option calls for USS to make a initial down payment on 480 acres of the property. The property owner will then make application to convert the site into a wetland bank by following the wetland restoration plan contained in this document. Once the site is certified by the Aitkin County SWCD as restored and eligible for banking, USS will complete the purchase agreement with the current owner and enroll the eligible banked credits into the wetland bank.

9. Drawings, Plan and Profiles and Photo Reference Points

Figure 6 indicates the proposed restoration plan with indicated photo reference points. Figure 7 provides plan and profile and construction details for the proposed restoration.

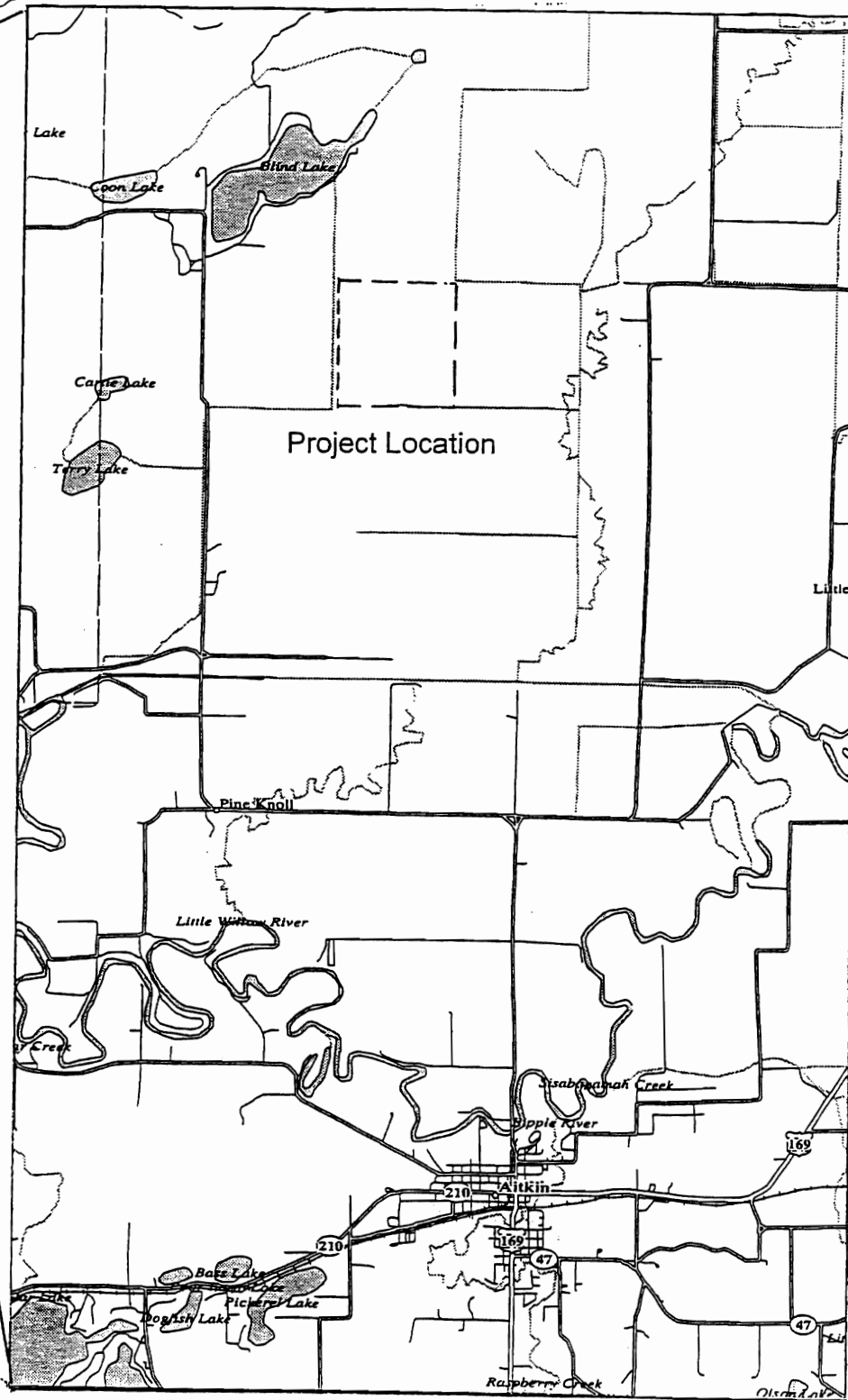
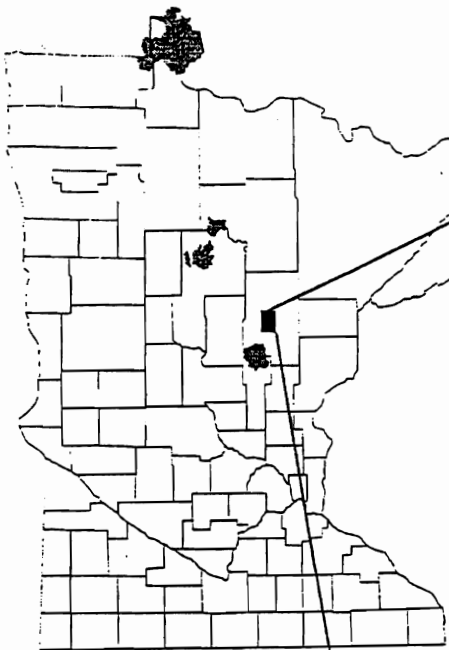
10. Describe How The Replacement Wetland Will Be Constructed

Figure 6 and 7 indicate the construction plans. Appendix E contains the project specifications under which the owner will complete the wetland restoration. The following briefly outlines the construction requirements as stated in the project specifications (Appendix E):

The project shall consist of all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to complete a wetland restoration on Section 23, T48N, R27W, Aitkin County, Minnesota. The work completed by the Contractor shall be sufficient to obtain certification from the local governmental unit (LGU), specifically the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) that a successful wetland restoration has occurred under the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (Minnesota Rules Chapter 8420).

Specific tasks which need to be completed to effect the wetland restoration include the following:

- 1. Construction of a ditch block on the east side of the site, as shown in the drawings. This ditch block shall sufficiently retain water in the center ditch so as to eliminate the drainage effect of the existing tile drainage system. Earth for the ditch block shall come from a borrow area specified by the Engineer on an on-site upland area containing suitable material for an earth fill structure.*
- 2. Seeding of the site with native grasses. Seeding can be done prior to, or after the ditch block is constructed*
- 3. Installing photo reference marker posts as shown on the drawings. These posts will be used to provide fixed points of reference for the long term monitoring plan.*
- 4. Installing piezometers for monitoring shallow groundwater conditions as shown on the drawings. These piezometers will be used to provide data to document effectiveness of the ditch block in negating the effects of the existing drainage tile.*
- 5. Maintain the site improvements and vegetation during the 6-month mandatory waiting period prior to LGU certification.*



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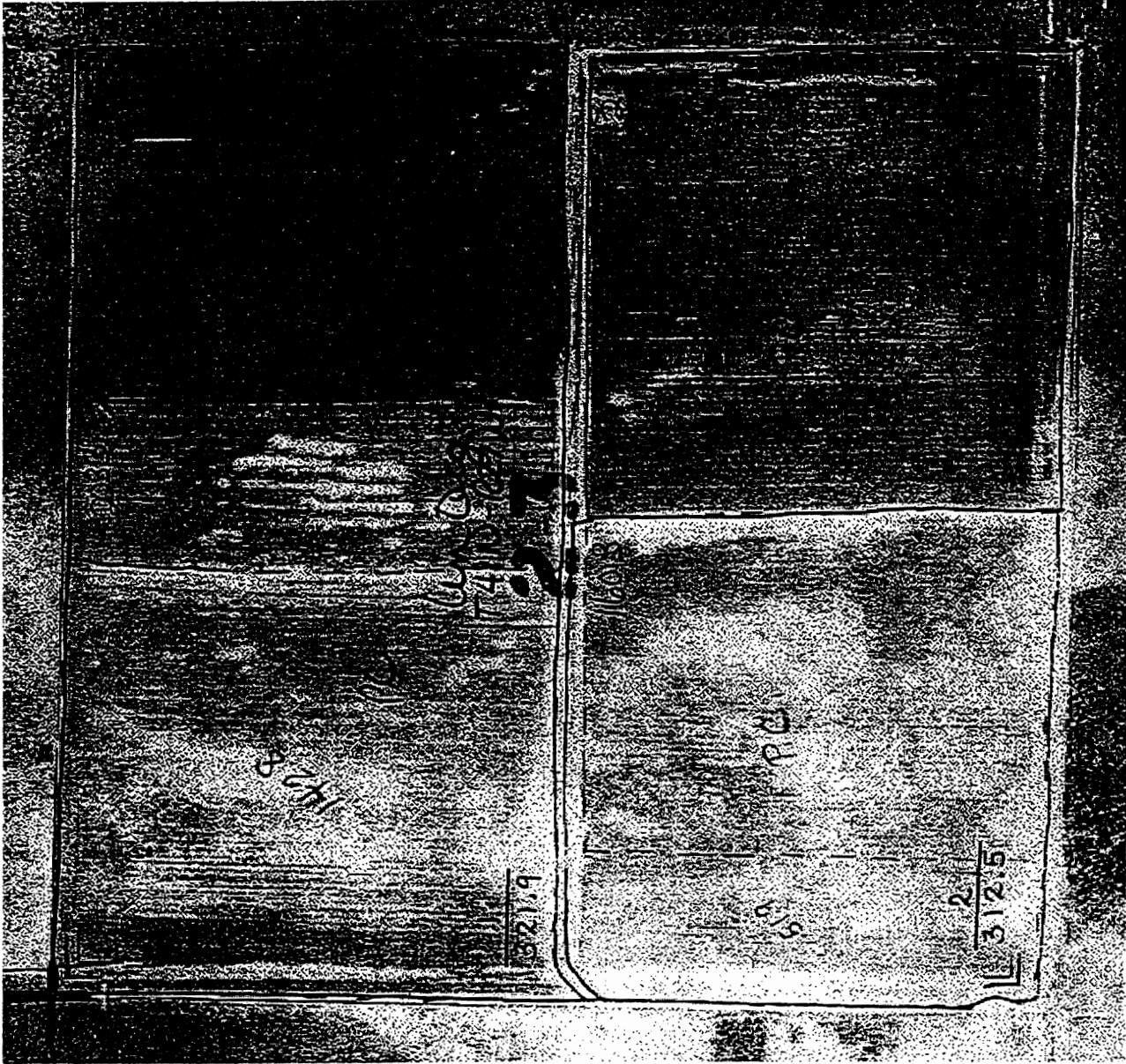
HDR Engineering Inc.

USS / Inland Aitkin County
Wetland Restoration

Project Location

Date
3 - 96

Figure
1

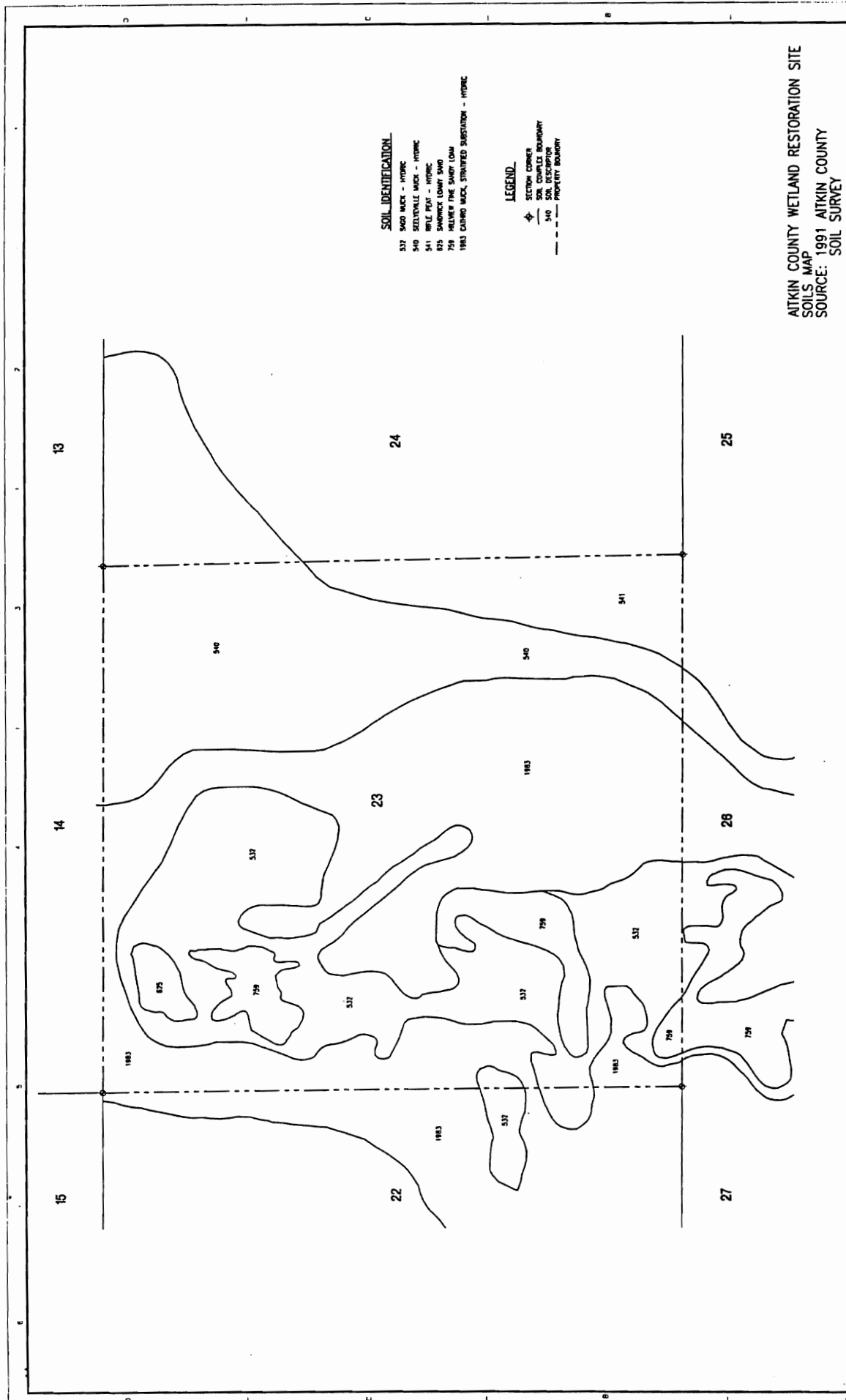


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HDR Engineering Inc.

Date	3/5/95
Figure	2

USS / Inland Aitkin County
Wetland Restoration
NRCS Aerial Photo



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HDR Engineering, Inc.

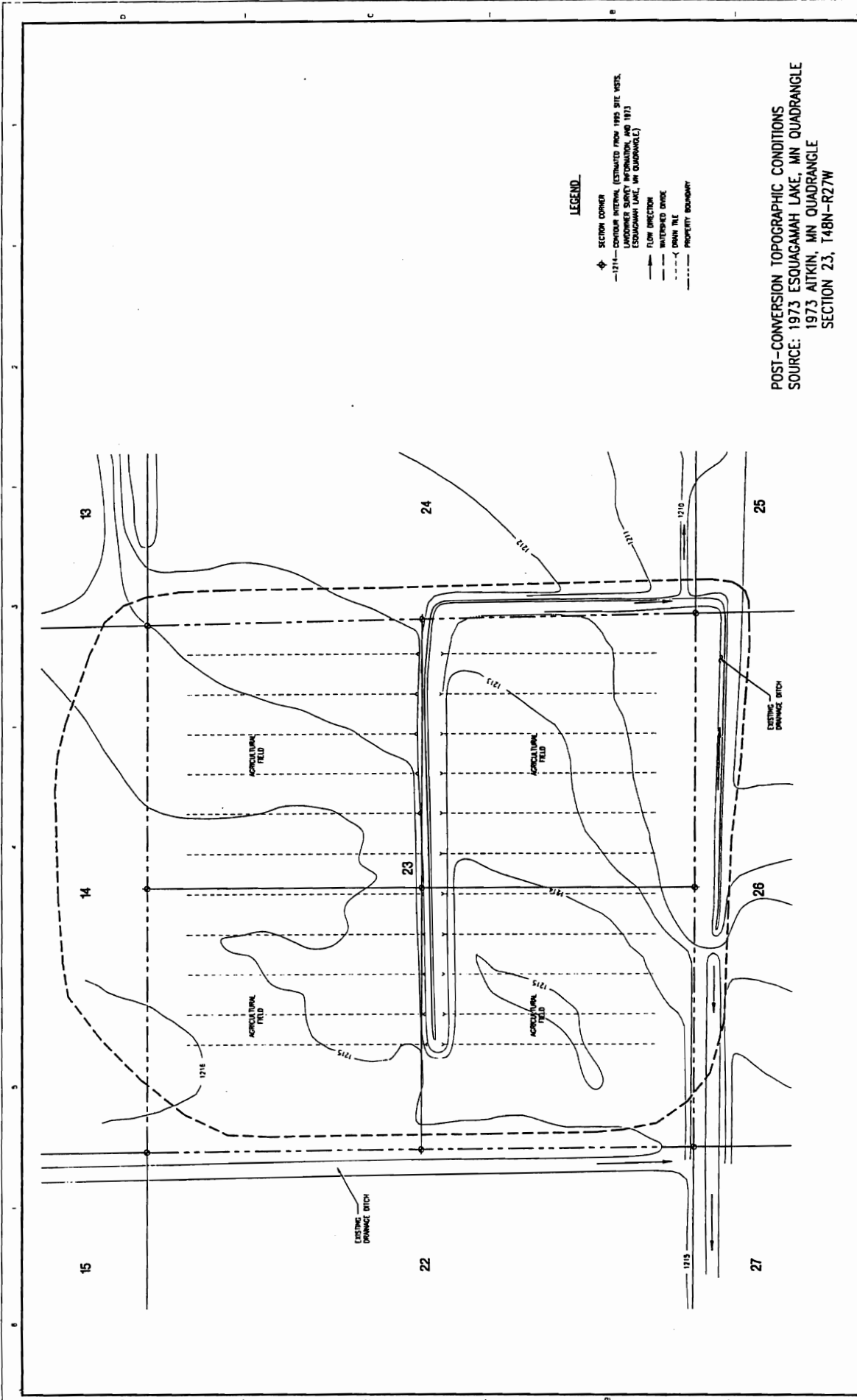
USS / INLAND
ATKIN COUNTY
WETLAND RESTORATION

**Figure 3
Soils Map**

08993-011-164

C-3

A



LEGEND

- ◆ SECTION CORNER
- 1214 --- CONTOUR INTERVAL, ESTIMATED FROM 1985 SITE NOTES, LANDOWNER SURVEY INFORMATION, AND 1973 ESQUAGAMAH LAKE, MN QUADRANGLE
- FLOW DIRECTION
- WATERCOURSE
- DRAIN TILE
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY

POST-CONVERSION TOPOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS
 SOURCE: 1973 ESQUAGAMAH LAKE, MN QUADRANGLE
 1973 AITKIN, MN QUADRANGLE
 SECTION 23, T48N-R27W



HDR Engineering, Inc.

USS / NLAND
 AITKIN COUNTY
 WETLAND RESTORATION

Figure 5
 Existing Site Plan

6.0 Legal Documentation for USS/Inland Aitkin County Wetland Restoration

As mentioned previously, the necessary affidavits and contract documents linking USS wetland permits to the site have been prepared. In general, the agreements calls for USS to make a initial down payment on 480 acres of the property. The property owner will then make application to convert the site into a wetland banking by following the wetland restoration plan contained in this document. Once the site is certified by the Aitkin County SWCD as restored and eligible for banking, USS will complete the purchase agreement with the current owner and enroll the eligible banked credits into the wetland bank.

A purchase option was signed and dated on November 10, 1995 between Thomas A. Thompson and USS. The language contained in the purchase option is as follows:

OPTION

FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION OF the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to us in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, we the undersigned, hereinafter called the Sellers, hereby grant unto USX CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, hereinafter called the Optionee, the exclusive right and privilege, at its option, for and during the period of 120 days from the 10th day of November 1995, to purchase for the sum of Three Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$310,000.00) the following described property situated in the County of Aitkin and State of Minnesota, to-wit:

*Entire Section Twenty-three (23), Township Forty-eight (48) North,
Range Twenty-seven (27) West (640 acres, more or less)*

All parties agree that, if the option is executed, the property will be delivered to Optionee in its present condition, that no waste will be committed nor any damage done to land buildings and/or fixtures.

Subject to easements and restrictions of record and excepting all minerals heretofore excepted, and subject to the rights and privileges to remove the said minerals heretofore reserved, by former grantors in deeds now of record in said County and State, upon the following terms and conditions to wit: Cash upon delivery to the Optionee of a warranty deed conveying marketable title to said premises as above described.

If the Optionee elects to purchase said premises, it shall given written notice thereof to the Sellers within the option period, time being of the essence hereof. Said notice may be served person ally upon the Sellers, or upon either one of the Sellers, or may by certified or registered mail directed to them at the address stated below; and in case said notice is given by such mailing, the service of said notice shall be deemed completed at the time of the deposit of the same in a depository for the receipt of United States mail.

Promptly after notice of intention to exercise this option, the Sellers shall deliver to the Optionee an abstract of title or registered property abstract to said premises duly extended to date, together with tax and judgement certificates; and the Optionee shall

have twenty (20) days after delivery of the abstract of title to have the title of said premises examined.

All taxes and special assessments on the said premises due and payable in prior years shall be paid by the Sellers. Taxes paid or payable in the year of the closing will be prorated by Seller and Optionee. Sellers shall pay the Minnesota State Deed Tax.

If the title to said premises is found defective the Sellers shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days after written notice specifying the defects in the title, perfect such title at their own expense; and the closing of the transaction shall be deferred until the title has been perfected.

If the Optionee should fail to exercise this option within the period provided therefor, this agreement shall be void and of no further force or effect, without further acts or notice whatsoever on the part of the Sellers.

Suggested language to be recorded in the deed:

*Deed Recording
Notice of Use Restriction and Maintenance Responsibility
For the Aitkin County Wetland Restoration Site
For the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act*

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103G.222, Minnesota Rules parts 8420.0530D, subpart 6 and 8420.0720, subpart 8, this property contains a wetland which was restored as a replacement wetland which was drained or filled. This replacement wetland is subject to the Wetland Conservation Act of 1991 and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers section 404 of the Clean Water Act wetland permits and all other provision of law that apply to wetlands, except that the exemptions in Minnesota Statutes 103G.2241 do not apply, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103G.222h and Minnesota Rules part 8420.0115.

This deed is subject to a restrictive covenant running with the land, to wit: that the owners of the replacement wetland and their successors are responsible for maintaining the size and type of the wetland, as specified in the approved replacement plan and banking plans on file with the local governmental unit, for making necessary repairs, and for replacing the replacement wetland if it should fail. Further, the owners of the replacement wetland and their successors shall grant reasonable access to the proper authorities for inspection, monitoring and enforcement of the laws for the replacement wetland, all pursuant to Minnesota Rules part 8420.0750, subpart 2.

7.0 USS/Inland Aitkin County Wetland Banking Plan

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT WETLAND BANKING PLAN APPLICATION

Provide the following information for the Wetland Banking Site:

(1) Timetable:

Selected Replacement Site January 12, 1996

Submit Draft Wetland Replacement Plan February 13, 1996

Submit Final Wetland Replacement Plan March 8, 1996

Applicant Name: Mr. Thomas A. Thompson

Applicant Address & phone: 602 2nd Ave, Old Hills Drive Inn, Aitkin, MN 56431

Ph. 218-927-3320

Name and Address/phone of Authorized Agents, Subsidiaries, or Consultants involved with wetland banking project:

HDR Engineering Inc

300 Parkdale 1 Building

5401 Gamble Drive

Minneapolis, MN 55416

Contact: Scott Wallace ph: 612-591-5400

Initiate Wetland Construction April, 1996

Complete Wetland Construction May, 1996

- (2) The location of the banking wetland: Aitkin county, Mississippi River watershed and UTM X 444 Y 5164:
Location: T 48N R 27W S 23
UTM Coordinates X: 444 Y: 5146
County Name: Aitkin
Check One: Greater Than 80 % remaining
Major Watershed Name: Mississippi River Watershed
Inlet/Outlet Characteristics:

There are no surface water inlets to the proposed wetland restoration site other than a small area (approximately 40 acres) of overland flow from the north onto the site. The ditch block will be constructed in a manner such that diffuse overland flow and seepage become the primary outlets for surface water.

- (3) The size and type of wetland that will result from successful completion of the replacement/banking plan.

I. Pre-existing Wetland: 2.6 Acres Type (Circular 39)
PEM Type (Cowardin)

II. Total Wetland Acres: 637.4 Acres 2.3.6 Type (Circular 39)
PEM/PSS Type (Cowardin)

a. Restored Wetlands 603.9 Acres

b. Created Wetlands 33.5 Acres

Note: (a) and (b) must equal the total of acres in (II).

III. New Wetland Acres: 637.4 Acres 2.3.6 Type (Circular 39)
PEM/PSS Type (Cowardin)

IV. Public Value Acres*: Acres Type (Circular 39)
 Type (Cowardin)

*(See Wetland Conservation Act Rule Part 8420.0540, subpart 10, item F to calculate public value acres)

- (4) A recent aerial photograph or accurate map of the banking site is attached?
Yes See Figure 2
- (5) A soils map of the banking site is attached? Yes See Figure 3
- (6) The size of the surface water drainage into the banking wetland is 680 acres.
- (7) a.) the locations of any surface inlets or outlets draining into or out of the wetlands are noted? Yes see Figure 6
b.) is the banking wetland within the floodplain of a watercourse? No
- (8) Has evidence of ownership or rights to the banking site by the applicant(s) been demonstrated? Yes see Section 6.
- (9) Have scale drawings showing plan and profile views of the replacement wetland and fixed photo-reference points for monitoring purposes been attached? Yes see Section 5, Figures 6 and 7.
- (10) Describe how the replacement wetland shall be constructed, for example, excavation or restoration by blocking an existing tile; the type, size, and specifications of outlet structures; elevations, relative to Mean Sea Level or established bench mark, of key features, for example, sill, emergency overflow, and structure height; and best management practices that will be implemented to prevent erosion or site degradation; See Section 5, Figures 6 and 7
- (11) For created wetlands only, list additional soils information sufficient to determine the capability of the site to produce and maintain wetland characteristics. See Section 5, Figures 3 and 4 - NWI map indicates that all soils on-site support wetland vegetation.
- (12) Has a monitoring plan has been developed and attached? Yes see Appendix C

- (13) List the dominant vegetation in the wetland banking area:

The site was planted in ryegrass during 1995. A crop was harvested in the fall of 1995 and the site was plowed under. There is currently no vegetation on most of the site. A small existing wetland located in the SE Quarter of Section 23 is currently dominated by Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Cattails (*Typha* spp.) NWI mapping of the site prior to its conversion as agricultural lands indicates the following dominant wetland types historically occurred:

- PFO1B- Palustrine Forested Broad Leafed Deciduous Saturated - 60.8 acres
- PSSB - Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Saturated - 270.5 acres
- PEM5Bd- Palustrine Emergent Narrow Leafed Persistent Saturated Partially Drained/Ditched - 172.9 acres
- PFO2B- Palustrine Forested Needle Leafed Deciduous Saturated - 100.1 acres

Appendix E contains the project specifications for immediate seeding of the site to stabilize site soils and create a wetland environment. The site is surrounded on 4 sides by public lands which maintain a native population of species. It is anticipated that eventual recolonization of native species will occur and ultimate site vegetation conditions will return to the pre-conversion condition.

- (14) Is a map, photograph, or written description of the land use of the immediate watershed within one mile of the banking wetland attached? Yes.

A location map is provided on Figure 1. The land within one mile of the replacement wetland is primarily State of Minnesota trust land and tax forfeited land. This land has been out of row crop production for a number of years. There is some residential development in the area between Blind Lake and the north west corner of the wetland area. The neighboring State of Minnesota land primarily consists of wetland areas dominated by native vegetation. There are no wetland development avoidance regions in the area surrounding the proposed wetland site, identified in the Aitkin comprehensive water plan.

- (15) Is the nature of the proposed project and its aerial extent shown in sufficient detail on the materials submitted? Yes.

- (16) List all other local, state, and federal permits and approvals required for the activity.

The following permits/approvals are involved with the wetland banking plan:

Corps of Engineers 404 permitting
MPCA 401 certification
Department of Natural Resources WCA approvals
Aitkin County SWCD WCA approvals

- (17) Sworn Statements:

Thomas A. Thompson (Applicant) confirms by signature below that:

- (i) the banking wetland was not previously restored or created under a prior approved replacement plan; AND,
- (ii) the banking wetland was not drained or filled under an exemption during the previous ten years; AND,

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- (iii) the banking wetland was not restored with financial assistance from public conservation program; AND,
- (iv) the banking wetland was not restored using private funds other than those of the landowner unless the funds are paid back with interest to the individual or organization that funded the restoration and the individual or organization notifies the local government unit in writing that the restored wetland may be considered for replacement.

(18) Has proof of banking/replacement wetland recording notice been submitted to LGU? See Section 6.

(19) Attach other necessary information.

Special Considerations

To the best of the applicant's knowledge, are any of the following factors applicable at the banking site?

- (1) federal or state-listed endangered species - No
- (2) rare natural communities - No
- (3) special fish and wildlife resources including:
 - (a) fish passage and spawning areas - No
 - (b) colonial waterbird nesting colonies - No
 - (c) migratory waterfowl concentration areas - No
 - (d) deer wintering areas - No
 - (e) wildlife travel corridors - No
- (4) archaeological or historic sites - No
- (5) ground water sensitive areas - No
- (6) sensitive surface waters (e.g., DNR designated trout waters) - No
- (7) educational or research sites - No
- (8) waste disposal sites - No
- (9) is the project consistent with local plans (e.g., watershed management plans, land use plans, zoning and master plans.) - Yes

The proposed banking site in Aitkin County allows for a unique opportunity. The site is surrounded on all four sides by lands owned by the State of Minnesota. These lands are being actively managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for sharp-tailed grouse habitat. This type of habitat has been identified as a critical habitat need in Minnesota.

Signature

I hereby affirm that the information above is correct and truthful to the best of my knowledge.

Thomas A. Thompson
(applicant signature)

(Date)

(witness/LGU Official signature)

(Date)

3-7-96

FOR LGU USE

Date Banking Plan Approved: _____

Signature of LGU official: _____

Date Certified For Deposit: _____

Signature of LGU official: _____